

City plans second road to Laurentian University

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Having a single road leading into Laurentian University is an issue that is beginning to affect the school's growth, according to Mark Simeoni, manager of community and strategic planning with the City of Greater Sudbury.

"The road is a limiting factor in terms of Laurentian's growth," Simeoni says.

Having a single road going into a campus of over 6,000 students is an issue, especially when it leads into a busy intersection, Simeoni says.

"The intersection [of Paris street and Ramsey Lake Road] is near capacity, and we have the Hospital fully operational now," he says. The Sudbury Regional Hospital is located near the same intersection as Laurentian University.

Simeoni says the issue has gotten so bad, that he has witnessed the road backed up all the way to York Street. York Street is about 3.7 km from campus according to Google Maps.

"Ultimately, we'll have to resolve the access issue," he says.

He lists a few different ways

the issue can be resolved.

These options include having more students living on campus, rather than commuting in, and alternating the times that courses start and finish, according to Simeoni.

One of the major ways to relieve the access issue is to build another access road into Laurentian, he says.

The proposed road project was a hot topic in the local media, but has since faded into oblivion. Simeoni assured me the project to build the second access road was not

dead, however.

"It's there waiting to happen, you might even see evidence of the road being constructed now," he says.

The only thing that may slow down the construction of the road is the status of the Environmental Study Report (ESR), he says.

"The ESR might get stale-dated and have to be re-looked at," he says.

According to Simeoni, if a city submits, and is approved, for their ESR, but does not build the road in a certain amount of time,

they are responsible under the Environmental Assessment Act of Ontario for undertaking a new ESR.

The purpose of the new ESR is to make sure "nothing has changed," he says.

The city is currently working on parts of the new road, he says.

The city is using the rock rubble from the sewer tunnel that was built in the city's South End in order to lay down a rock foundation for the new road, he says.

"So parts of it are moving forward, just in a quiet way," he says.

SEE 'LAURENTIAN,' PAGE 3

Fall shows true colours at Laurentian



Photo by Andy Veilleux

This photo was taken in the Laurentian University conservation area on Oct. 2, during a hike. For a story on the hike, see page 8.

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kicks: LU
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Lambda circulates 2000 issues throughout the City of Greater Sudbury and Laurentian University Campus.

Lambda Publications is the bi-weekly student newspaper of, by and for the students of Laurentian University. Lambda is funded through a direct student levy by members of the Students' General Association/ Association Generale des Etudiantes, yet remains autonomous from all university organizations, both student and administrative.

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Editor's Farewell to the Lambda

BY CANDACE JAZVAC

The past three years have flown by. It feels like it was just yesterday I was a nervous 18 year-old moving away from home for the first time, listening to cheesy Avril Lavigne and crying as my parents and I drove up Highway 69 in a vehicle loaded up with milk crates. Now, I am looking for my first apartment and getting ready to graduate.

People always say that your university years are probably some of the best you'll ever experience, and that you will actually miss staying up all night writing essays. While I'm not quite sure the second part of that statement is true, when you sit back and think about it, your university years are truly some of the most important of your life.

Here at Laurentian and in Sudbury, I have met some amazing people and have had the chance to do some incredible things. Although I have struggled both academically and personally at times, I have come out the other side a stronger and more independent woman that I had ever thought possible.

From meeting some of my best friends during my first year

in residence, to helping elect our fabulous MP, to having the chance to run our newspaper, I have been blessed. I have learned from some of the best, and had the pleasure of working with them as well. The Sudbury community has welcomed me so graciously, and I am so proud to call it my home.

With Lambda in particular, I have learned so much. From my first shaky interview, to this, my last editorial, I have had the chance to give a voice to issues that are important to both me and the Laurentian student body at large. And while my vision for Lambda has not yet been fully realized, I feel it is time for me to move on.

When I first started writing for Lambda, I was a nervous and journalistically inexperienced girl who simply wanted to get involved. Being politically active off-campus, I knew the importance of media, and wanted to help shape Laurentian's student newspaper.

It wasn't long before I was heading to my very first interview, clutching my recorder in my sweaty palms. I never thought I would be able to sit down with someone without feeling nauseated and

uncomfortable; however, it wasn't long before I felt much more at ease.

When I was hired as Assistant Editor in January of last year, I was excited. I had so many plans and ideas for Lambda, and was anxious to get started. When I became Editor-in-Chief in the spring, I was even more enthusiastic about my role and what I believed Lambda could and should be.

Those who know me well know that I have struggled with the newspaper since taking over as Editor. I have been in constant conflict with myself; about my hectic schedule, my vision for the paper, and my ideas on issues that I felt should be discussed in the student newspaper. I continue to carry the vision of a progressive and meaningful future for Lambda, but feel it is time for someone else to carry out the dream.

Lambda should be the conscience of Laurentian University. While depicting student sentiment on issues, it should also be an unbiased source of information for those students. It should not be afraid of diving into controversial territory, but with good reason and tact. Lambda should reach outside the borders of

the university campus and represent all students and alumni who live within the entire city.

The Sudbury community supported and encouraged me through my growing years, and I urge it to do the same for Lambda. Lambda can no longer be regarded as Laurentian's joke of a student newspaper, because such a reputation allows it to be less than it can be. I hope that the community can rally around the newspaper and give it the opportunity to grow and find its own voice. It needs feedback and criticism, and it needs to be slapped on the wrist when it does wrong. I will also be watching Lambda as it goes out on its own without me. I can only hope it continues down the path I feel is best for it, and that it doesn't get mixed up with the wrong crowd.

I am no longer able to commit enough time to the publication, and I care too much about its future to stick around when I cannot give it every ounce of my passion. It is with great sadness that I leave Lambda behind, but I do leave with great hope that it will one day become the pride of Laurentian.

Thank you.

Confessions of a part time professor

BY ROBERT BECKETT

I first started teaching at Laurentian after I answered a job ad in the Sudbury Star. Why I was actually hired is still a mystery to me, as my qualifications were meagre. I was neither trained in that discipline nor overly familiar with the subject of that course. Maybe as a Laurentian graduate they figured it was best to give me a job and keep the LU post-graduation employment levels up. Maybe it was because the department that first hired me is one of those pockets of humanity that are scattered throughout Laurentian.

Whatever the cause, they took a chance on me, and I'm still grateful.

Once I got the job, I quickly scrambled to find the 'magic book' that I assumed all courses came with. You know, the manual that would outline what I'd say each class, what tests I'd give, and how I'd grade students. Upon inquiring about this 'magic book', the secretary informed me, that she had no idea what I was talking about, but she could give me the syllabus the previous teacher had used. I studied that little syllabus as feverishly as any nervous student, trying to wring every little drop of guidance from it. Taking pity on me, some department members dug up the binder for a correspondence course on the same subject, and informed me that the course had a textbook waiting in the bookstore. If I could just pretend that I knew what I was doing, I'd be indistinguishable from the long line of teachers that had previously paraded in front of those students.

So on a cold, January afternoon, I first stepped in front of a class - and promptly lost my mind.

Let me explain.

Back when I was a grade-schooler going to St. Michael's separate school, I was chosen to play the part of a shepherd in the Christmas Carol. As every introverted child knows, this minor duty was torture and when the time finally came to give my dialogue, a strange thing happened. I sank so deeply into myself that my face appeared to me, as a mask I was wearing and I could only assume the holes I was staring out of were my eyes; I was blacking out. Then a Xmas miracle happened - deep within the cavern, that was my head, I could hear my disembodied voice speaking those fateful words. Apparently my voice and my self were different things.

Now, two decades later, it was happening again and, in all honesty, for the next 8 years of professing it lessened but never truly stopped. Depending on how many contracts I was given, I'd be forced out of my body between 2 to 7 times a week. It was like being a paid possess-ee, earning my money by allowing this 'voice' to emanate from

me on a daily basis, while I slipped into a trauma induced trance.

In a flash, the hour passed, the class ended, a handful of students came up to have me sign papers or give them a syllabus, and I went home. My partner asked me how my first day went, but I said nothing to her. I simply went downstairs, got a baseball bat and savagely beat my bed mattress with it until I was exhausted and my shoulders were burning. Shame, doubt and anger surged through my frayed nervous system. The buzz from teaching was formidable and over the years I have tried many different ways to discharge it with varying success such as reckless night biking down dirt roads, self medicating, yelling into a pillow and watching television. For me, the post-class rush is a beast that must be ridden lest it destroy you.

For my second day, I went early to prepare - which mostly involved standing in front of the bathroom mirror splashing water on my face, desperately fighting nausea. When male students started to trickle into this sanctuary, I vacated it for a more deserted spot. Little did I know that this new refuge was hidden around the corner, from the stairs my students were now filling up, and I was given a privilege no professor should have to endure, I heard my students gossiping about me.

Over the years, I have come to understand that the insistent gossiping by some students is an age old form of addressing the power imbalance of the classroom, of sharing collective wisdom about their communal experience and of partaking in mutual reassurance by nervous young people. And, let's be frank, some of the gossip is true.

But it's also shallow students trying to justify their own lack of effort.

Hearing them speak, I found that the students were as unsure of me as I was of them and, on only my second day, I could already see the start of a vicious feedback-loop rearing its ugly head. With a heavy heart, I looked out over my large brown teacher's desk.

Over the years I have found it near impossible to look directly at the faces of the classroom audience, fearful of being stopped by the gaze of some student staring at me with spooky intensity - it does happen. So I let my eyes unfocus and slowly drift over the classroom, occasionally coming to rest on the safe harbour of some student sleeping, or texting, at the back of the auditorium. But on that second day, I gazed out with a clarity borne of desperation and saw the motley crew, called students, staring expectantly back, in all their awkward glory.

Some were my fellow Sudburians, many my fellow Northern Ontarians, but most importantly, all were my fellow humans. For the next hour and

a half, they would do what I told them and listen to what I said. There was a primal privilege and responsibility in this, which I had to square myself with.

And in that moment, somewhere inside me, a decision was made. I would throw my lot in with the students - with the foolhardiness and idealism that entails.

It was uneasy path I had chosen, but the students could smell the change in me. Whatever my many faults, insincerity would not be one of them. It would not be me versus the students; it would be us versus ignorance.

When that semester ended I threw away the textbook and spent the summer learning everything I could about my subject - and for the next 8 years I never used a textbook again nor really had a free summer. As a professor I was called to profess, and I could only profess what I had reasonably researched for myself. And every year the bar for 'reasonably researched' was raised higher.

Over the years I became proficient at the ancient art of 'chalk & talk' and won some minor recognition for my skills. I still spoke a mile-a-minute in a state that bordered on daemonic possession and I've seen assistive note takers weep openly in my classes. But I've also witnessed veteran students tell them to relax, all the testable material is on-line, just sit back and listen. Come along.

It seems gauche to talk this way when modern academia is so awash in Tim Horton's cups, OSAP fees, cell phones and practiced cynicism; When I know that university promises so much more than it can deliver, and takes away things that can never be recaptured. Yet, in every classroom, there will always lay the chance for the intimacy of communication and the awe of new knowledge.

And behind the hidden fears there remains the chance for a mutual recognition of humanity - on each side of the podium. And, for me, this was the very foundation of teaching.

I'm not advocating any one style of professing, university is, and must be, a mosaic of teaching styles and voices. Part of the joy of teaching was the knowledge that, at most, I was 1/5 or 2/5 of a student's education in any given semester and many rightly revered colleagues were waiting to pick up the baton, after I had my hour and 15 minutes.

But if I can brag for one moment, in 8 years of professing I haven't vomited yet.

Robert 'Hobb' Beckett has been a sessional professor for the Philosophy and Sociology Departments since 2002. He is currently enjoying his first non-academic autumn since age 3.

Tentative NOSM deal reached

BY CALLAM RODYA

The labour dispute between the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) that has slowed traffic along Ramsey Lake Road and caused delays to and from Laurentian University since Aug. 16 may finally be over.

After a late night bargaining session on Oct. 3, a tentative deal has been reached that may see OPSEU workers at NOSM return to work after Thanksgiving weekend. This latest round of talks began on Sept. 30 with a mediator, however this tentative agreement was reached without a third party's intervention.

According to union officials, a ratification meeting will be held Oct. 7 where Local 677 will vote on the proposed agreement. Neither OPSEU nor NOSM have revealed any specific details on the agreement, however, should it be ratified, both parties said they would be forthcoming on the specifics.

At the time of the writing of this article, picketers are still out at campus entrances, although they have not been holding up traffic or impeding access to the university since the tentative deal was reached. Even Greater Sudbury Transit buses have been freely moving around campus during picketing hours - a first since transit workers under CUPE Local 4705 refused to cross OPSEU picket lines when the strike began.

Dr. Roger Strasser, dean of NOSM, told local media he was pleased and relieved a tentative deal had been reached.

"Right through, the school has been committed to reaching a first collective agreement with the support staff, which fairly reflects the unique nature of NOSM and its workforce," he said. "I believe this agreement does reflect that."

Strasser also acknowledged the adverse effects the strike has had on students and staff.

"[Those trying to get onto campus have] been more than inconvenienced," he said. "It's been quite difficult for them. I think everyone is looking forward to an end to this dispute, and completion of the first collective agreement."

Talks between NOSM and OPSEU began almost a year ago with Local 677 trying to negotiate their first collective agreement with the school.

Tyler England, chair of the Local 677 bargaining committee, told local media that his priority during negotiations was "enshrining the workers' current rights and privileges" in the collective agreement.

"We're close to 50 days of bargaining, which is a huge number," England said. "Absolutely, there were frustrating moments throughout that process. It's fortunate that now we're at a point where the members can decide."

SGA President Samantha

Pitzel, who maintained a neutral position on the labour dispute throughout its entirety, expressed relief over the tentative agreement but chided both sides for unfairly placing students in the crossfire.

"We may not have had a place at the table, but we were inextricably caught up in the situation all the same - and we were not treated with a lot of respect," Pitzel wrote in a letter to Lambda. "Laurentian students are intelligent, hard-working, resourceful, and active members of our community. Surely we deserve better. We were forced into the middle of a labour dispute in which both sides used us and focused solely on their own interests and concerns without considering ours."

She described the tactics employed by both sides

"NOSM delayed returning to the negotiating table time and time again, prolonging the strike," she wrote. "They let public anger build toward the striking employees while they sat back and stayed virtually invisible. OPSEU was no better; they threw our students under the bus each morning when they delayed us expressly to make us angry enough to call someone at the University and let them know about it. It was abundantly clear throughout the strike that neither side was looking out for students."

The agreement must now be ratified by both OPSEU and NOSM.

'Laurentian's important to Sudbury's future:' Simeoni

FROM PAGE 1

Simeoni says any environmental concerns that were raised have been addressed in the Environmental Study Report.

"If you read that report, it will tell you how the trails were addressed, and what we're doing about the natural environment, and the conditions in which the road can go forward," he says.

Simeoni believes the city has a responsibility to help Laurentian develop, because Laurentian plays an important role in Sudbury, and the North.

"Any community that doesn't have its youth has a hard time seeing its future."

-Mark Simeoni

"Laurentian's important for Sudbury's future, because it provides a place where Sudburians and people from the North can get a local education at a higher level," he says.

He hopes the growth of Laurentian will help keep Sudbury's youth in the city, which has been an issue.

"Demographically, from a Statistics Canada perspective, there is a loss in the younger cohort, I'm specifically saying age 20 to 35," Simeoni says. "We seem to not be able to retain that age group the way the city would like to."

He believes a community's youth is important in realizing what the community's future looks like.

"Any community that doesn't have its youth has a hard time seeing its future," he says.

The issue of youth leaving Sudbury is not a new issue, he says.

"There's strong evidence that it's been something Sudbury has experienced for a number of years."

Simeoni believes working with Laurentian is a natural thing for the City, because they have common goals.

"We're working towards the same things, because if it's good for Laurentian, ultimately it's good for Sudbury," he says.

He believes the addition of a School of Architecture is going to be critical for the City of Greater Sudbury and Laurentian.

"It further develops Laurentian as an important educational facility in this community," he says. "It makes Laurentian a more valuable asset to Sudbury and Northeastern Ontario."

He is hoping the new school will boost the reputation of the City, and create natural ambassadors for the community.

"People will come from other places to Sudbury, and then go back somewhere with the Sudbury experience, so you create Ambassadors of Sudbury," he says. "It will raise our profile nationally."

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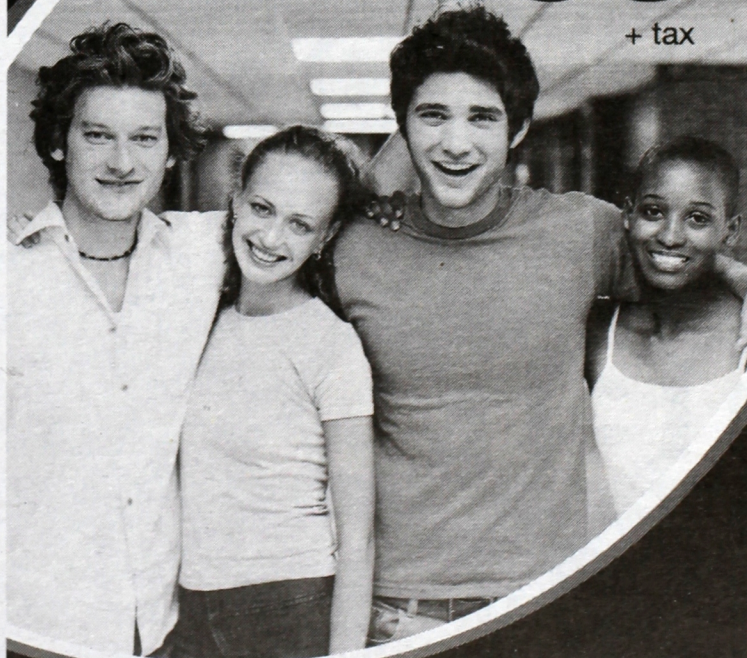
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LAMBDA -SPOTLIGHT-

The theatre experience

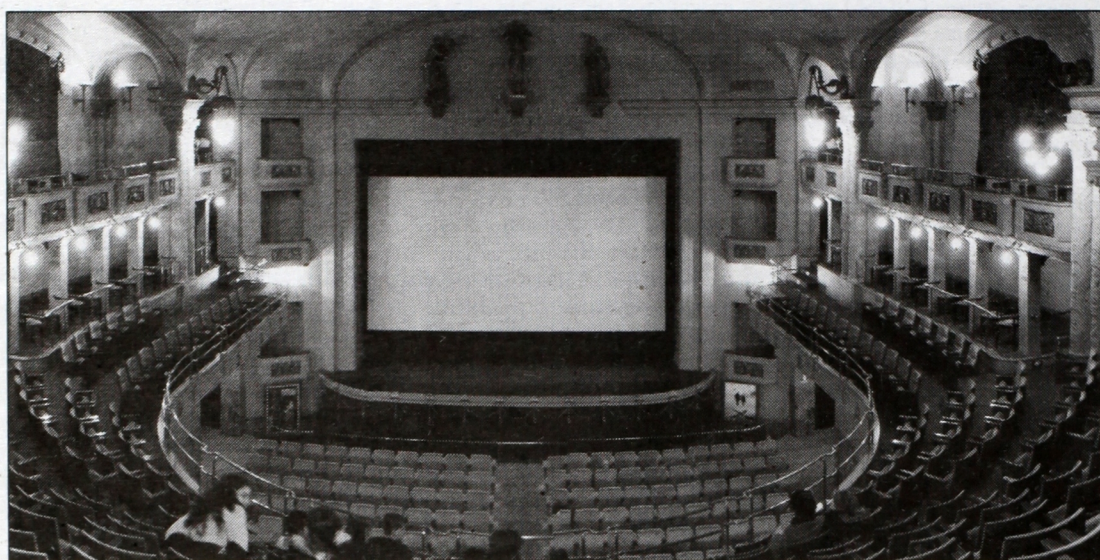
BY CALLAM RODYA

Remember when movie theatres were actually theatres? When they had only a handful of screens? When they were designed by architects rather than retail design firms? When they blended in with downtown storefronts and facades rather than suburban strip malls and big box commercial developments? When they didn't have arcades and Pizza Huts? When they had unique names instead of brands?

Neither do I. I'm only twenty-three so I don't really remember any of that. But I know it existed, I know there was a time when the movie theatre was a place to dress up for, to appreciate not for its automated ticket kiosks and ample parking, its twelve screens or its 52-speaker surround-sound earthquake machine, but for its sophistication, class, and its authentic experience.

It seems now that movie theatres are designed with the same principles as a Walmart Supercentre.

On the other hand, playhouses, God bless them, have for



Cinema Odeon in Florence, Italy.

Photo Supplied

the most part managed to maintain their classic aesthetic. I marvel at stages like the Avon and Festival Theatres in Stratford, the Royal Alexandria, Princess of Wales,

and Canon in Toronto. Even our very own Sudbury Theatre Centre still has a bit of that magical left in its walls. These theatres are still beautiful. And why shouldn't they

be? The theatre is an icon of class and cultural sophistication. But so was the cinema once...

What happened?

Even from watching a film like

Tarantino's *Iglourious Basterds* or "The Gum" episode of *Seinfeld*, I get small glimpses into the cinematic past - before multiplexes and big box-suburbia, before Judd Apatow and Michael Bay pumped audiences full of lowest common denominator-comedy and helicopters at sunset, before the popcorn and drink cost more than the ticket, when movie theatres were still theatres and not retail distributors of movies, butter, and Dance Dance Revolution.

Even in today's conglomerated, Wall Street, big-budget, digital-Hollywood, the cinema is still an art. And art needs a proper home. And there is something wrong when paintings still have their galleries, plays still have their theatres, but movies are forcefully-herded into these gaudy, warehouse multiplexes.

In 2010, the prevailing retail model is the Walmart one - high volume, low overhead, cheap product, cheap prices. On your next night out to the movies, ask yourself if your local Cineplex monstrosity is any different.

Local hip-hop fundraiser: Rhymes of Freedom

On Thursday, Oct. 14, The Walrus Underground at 113 Durham Street in downtown Sudbury will host a unique evening of hip-hop, spoken word, and poetry. Rhymes of Freedom, organized by local hip-hop artist Silvertongue (real name: Max Merrifield), will feature a laid back yet provocative selection of performances ranging from experimental hip-hop, to lyrical and freestyle spoken word.

In addition to Silvertongue, artists featured include London, Ontario's Testament, The Troublemaker & EZG, Tara Dantouze, Mitchy J, and Streetwise. The event is also being billed as a night of discussion and reflection on the recent G20 Summit in Toronto.

The event will start at 6 p.m. with the discussion and will run until 11 p.m. The suggested donation of a \$5 cover will go towards legal defence funds for G20 protesters.

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LU alumni runs for city council

BY ED VAILLEUX

Richard L. Paquette, stands outside the Lambda office ten minutes early for his interview, reading the Sept. 23 issue.

He wears a dark-grey suit, accompanied by a purple, orange, yellow and red, circularly-patterned tie. He wears glasses, has a neatly-trimmed beard and dark brown, short hair.

He is wearing a nametag, which reads, "Elect Richard Paquette, Ward 4."

Paquette walks with relaxed shoulders and a soft smile through the halls of Laurentian University.

He still holds a key for his old office in the Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students room, of which he is the past president.

Paquette speaks of change, and has put his name in to try and provide it.

He is running to be councillor in Ward 4, which covers Azilda, Northern Heights, the Donovan and Elm-West.

Like several others seeking office in the Oct. 25 municipal elections, Paquette openly talks about being disappointed with the last council.

"Council plays lip service to (issues), but doesn't do anything," he said, citing the issue of sustainable mobility as an example.

Council "could've added bike lanes" when they did work on several major roads in Sudbury, such as the Kingsway and Regent, Paquette argues.

What might set Paquette apart from other candidates is his platform. His platform and campaign span 30 to 40 pages of digital text on his website, richardlpaquette.ca. He said he won't print out his entire platform, because he is conscious of the environment.

"I think I have more written in my campaign than all other candidates together," he said. "I refuse to dumb down my message to voters."

Paquette, 33, holds two bachelor degrees, one from the University of Ottawa for music and a second from Laurentian University in history. He continues to study at Laurentian part-time and is three credits shy of completing a third degree in political science.

Paquette was president of the



Photo by Ed Veilleux

Richard L. Paquette stands outside Laurentian University. He is running as a candidate for Ward 4 councillor in the upcoming municipal elections, which take place Oct. 25.

Laurentian Association of Mature and Part-time Students from 2005

"Politicians make a lot of empty promises on the campaign trail. It's irresponsible to promise particular projects. Councillors only have one vote."

-Richard L. Paquette

to the fall of 2010. Paquette served on the Rayside-Balfour Community

Action Network (CAN) from its inception through to 2007.

Paquette said part of his job, if elected, will be doing his best "to sell ideas that need to be sold (to the public). We can't keep doing the same."

As opposed to taking a passive stance on issues and waiting for public outcry to reach him, as he said many politicians do, he said he will look to be one step ahead on making decisions, and will try to "get out in front of issues."

Paquette said it's time to move beyond the "car culture," and to get the wheel rolling, so to speak,

on sustainable mobility and better transit service.

When it comes to making decisions for the community, Paquette believes in doing "what's right."

He added: "If something is in the best interest of the community, we can't just go with what's popular. We have to go with what's right."

Win or lose, Paquette said his platform will remain up on his website so he can be held accountable for what he set out to do.

Paquette added, "The city needs young, vibrant politicians."

He considers himself that. "People want fresh faces on council," he said.

When summing up what would constitute being a good councillor, he said, "It's about putting new ideas forward."

Paquette finds it troubling that "politicians make a lot of empty promises on the campaign trail," so he has refrained from it. "It's irresponsible to promise particular projects. Councillors only have one vote."

He concluded: "My only promise is to work hard and do my best."

Proposed University-Four Corners bus gains traction

BY CALLAM RODYA

Students and staff yearning for a more direct transit route to the Four Corners from campus may soon have a viable option in the form of the University-Four Corners bus, a new pilot transit initiative championed by SGA President Samantha Pitzel.

The new bus route, still currently in the development phase, would service a direct route from the Laurentian University campus to the Four Corners and back again, eliminating the need to transfer buses downtown or on Paris Street. For now, Pitzel said the new route is aimed at students living in residence, providing them with more direct

access to amenities such as groceries, banking, and pharmacy services.

According to Pitzel, the first test buses will begin making the rounds the first week of November. She said, initially, City of Greater Sudbury Transportation Services was not very receptive to a new university bus route, but have since warmed to the idea.

"We've been pushing for this for a while," Pitzel said. "It was part of the negotiations for the original U-Pass but that didn't end up panning out."

Pitzel then started going directly to city councillors. She met with Ward 10 Coun. Frances Caldarelli, and the plan begin to

gain traction. Ward 10 encompasses the Laurentian campus as well as the Four Corners.

"We eventually got a meeting with the transit committee and we asked them if we could make a presentation and we did," said Pitzel.

She says that presentation sparked councillors to put pressure on Roger Sauvé, director of Greater Sudbury Transit, to come up with a viable action plan on the proposal. The result will be a weekend University-Four Corners bus running in two blocks throughout the day that will test the route and gauge the ridership. Pitzel described a Saturday bus running from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and then from 2:00 p.m.

to 4:00 p.m. every half-hour offering return trips from campus to the South End.

"Right now, we're looking at running mostly weekends," Pitzel said. "For [Greater Sudbury Transit] it's easier - they run fewer buses, the cost is a little better for them."

Eventually, Pitzel hopes, the service will be expanded to a daily, every-half-hour route much like 501 Regent-University route.

"I would really like to see us pack those Saturday buses so that the city sees that students use these, that they are a vital service," Pitzel said. "That way they expand the service and it'll run a few times a day rather than a few times a week."

Pitzel said the initial student response to the pilot project has been very encouraging.

"When I sent my initial email out asking students what times they would prefer [for the new route], I got 80 emails back within the first hour," said Pitzel. "That is a pretty good response."

In all, she received more than 200 emails from students eager to try out the new bus route.

Details on when exactly the new route will enter pilot testing, and the stops it will make, have not yet been made available.

NHL 2010-2011 Season Preview

**BY RON GUILLET AND
ANDY VILLEUX**

Eastern Conference:

Washington Capitals---1st place:
Banking on Semyon Varlamov and Michal Neuvirth to lead the charge between the pipes, who have a combined 54 games played in the NHL. The decision may result in some bumps along the road, but the Capitals will once again dominate the soft Southeast division with their unstoppable offense.

Ron's ranking: 2nd
Andy's ranking: 1st
Sleeper/Breakout player: G - Semyon Varlamov, D - John Carlson
Pittsburgh Penguins---2nd place:
Marc-Andre Fleury is looking to rebound after a mediocre season. If he does, the Penguins will once again be near the top of the Eastern Conference. The departure of Sergei Gonchar won't help the powerplay (ranked 19th last season), but free agent acquisition Paul Martin will help in both ends of the rink. Jordan Staal will miss an undisclosed amount of time to begin this season, but expect it to be lengthy as his surgically repaired foot became infected. He has not been able to work out at all since then, and he has apparently lose some leg mass.

Ron's ranking: 1st
Andy's ranking: 2nd
Sleeper/Breakout player: D - Paul Martin, Alex Goligoski
Boston Bruins---3rd place: The additions of Nathan Horton and Tyler Seguin will help offensively, and should not struggle offensively, even though Marc Savard could miss a substantial amount of time to begin the season. All eyes will be on Tuukka Rask after a tremendous rookie season, and even if he falters, Tim Thomas is a capable NHL goaltender still.

Ron's ranking: 3rd
Andy's ranking: 3rd
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Nathan Horton, G - Tuukka Rask
New Jersey Devils---4th place: The Devil could potentially emerge atop the Eastern Conference. They upgraded on defense significantly with the addition of Anton Volchenkov, but is Martin Brodeur starting to regress with age? The addition of Ilya Kovalchuk for a full season will boost the team's offense substantially. It's tough to peg this team down at the moment, as they are slightly over the salary cap and will have to shed some salary before the season kicks off.

Ron's ranking: 4th
Andy's ranking: 4th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Travis Zajac, David Clarkson
Buffalo Sabres---5th place: If Ryan Miller can maintain his play as one of the league's elite goaltenders, the Sabres could finish atop the Northeast division once again. Thomas Vanek will be counted on to regain his 40-goal form, if the team is to make the playoffs. Even if the stars align for the Sabres, it will be difficult to clench a spot in the playoffs though.

Ron's ranking: 5th
Andy's ranking: 7th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Tyler Ennis, Tim Kennedy
Tampa Bay Lightning---6th place: On the rise with a lethal top-six forward unit and a stronger defense corps with the addition of Pavel Kubina. The only concern is in net with Dan Ellis and Mike Smith likely sharing the workload. The team will benefit from being in a weak Southeast division, where the only other threat is Washington.

Ron's ranking: 7th
Andy's ranking: 6th
Sleeper/Breakout player: D - Victor Hedman, F - Steve Downie
Ottawa Senators---7th place: Sergei Gonchar will help on offense, but at 36 years old, his impact may be dwindling. The loss of

Volchenkov means the blue-line will focus on offence. The goaltending remains a question mark, but if Brian Elliott grabs the reins and takes control like last season they will be okay in net. The youth movement in Ottawa could take a huge step forward under the strength of the veteran leadership the club possesses.

Ron's ranking: 8th
Andy's ranking: 5th
Sleeper/Breakout player: D - Erik Karlsson, Nick Foligno

Philadelphia Flyers---8th place:
Hoping Nikolai Zherdev can fill the void left from Simon Gagne. Still some concerns between the pipes, however, as former NHL journeyman, Michael Leighton, must now display some consistency. With several offensive weapons poised to break out this season, the team should be rather dangerous offensively. The defense is play-off worthy also. This club may be poised for a break-out season following their strong play-off run, but it's difficult to tell with such a young club.

Ron's ranking: 6th
Andy's ranking: 8th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Ville Leino, Claude Giroux

New York Rangers---9th place:
The Rangers will once again be on the bubble in the final weeks of the regular season. The addition of Frolov will be important to the team's offense, but something about this team's excessive star-power, but lack of chemistry, is still worrisome.

Ron's ranking: 9th
Andy's ranking: 9th
Sleeper/Breakout players: F - Brandon Dubinsky, Alexander Frolov
Toronto Maple Leafs---10th

place: The second youngest team in the NHL will take a step forward this season, but will have to wait another year until they reach the playoffs most likely. If the defense doesn't play to its potential, it's likely the team will relinquish another top draft-pick to the Boston Bruins because of the Phil Kessel trade. The team's young centres will need a big year if this team is to make a jump forward in the standings. The team's goaltending situation is average.

Ron's ranking: 10th
Andy's ranking: 11th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Kris Versteeg, Tyler Bozak

Montreal Canadiens---11th place: Carey Price has a tough task ahead of him with an unforgiving fanbase nipping his heels. Unless P.K. Subban flourishes in Andrei Markov's absence, the team may struggle out of the gate with its top player sidelined for at least a month. The team will need to tighten up defensively if they hope to make up for the loss of Jaroslav Halak in the off-season.

Ron's ranking: 11th
Andy's ranking: 10th
Sleeper/Breakout player: D - P.K. Subban, Brian Gionta

Atlanta Thrashers---12th place: The team will be counting on Niclas Bergfors, Bryan Little and Evander Kane to have productive seasons. Defensively you can expect the young D-core to mature, and hopefully develop their game so they may eventually lead the Thrashers out of the dungeon. With Ondrej Pavalec and Chris Mason set to share the duties between the pipes, there may be too many question marks for the Thrashers to reach the post-season.

Ron's ranking: 12th
Andy's ranking: 13th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Niclas Bergfors, D - Zach Bogosian

Carolina Hurricanes---13th place: The departures of Ray Whitney and Rod Brind'Amour opens the door for some of the youth to step up, but it's unlikely the team makes any progress in the standings after failing to acquire any outside help this summer. The team will



expect Cam Ward to regain some of the form he shown in earlier seasons of his career. They will also expect Jussi Jokinen to duplicate the career-year he had last season.

Ron's ranking: 13th
Andy's ranking: 12th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Brandon Sutter, Tuomo Ruutu
Florida Panthers---14th place:

Excluding Tomas Vokoun, the Panthers lack any real star power. The rebuild continues in Florida, and they will most likely dwell in the east coast basement again.

Ron's ranking: 14th
Andy's ranking: 14th
Sleeper/Breakout player: D - Dennis Wideman, F - Michael Frolik

New York Islanders---15th place: Pre-season injuries to Kyle Okposo and Mark Streit derail any hope the team had to make the playoffs. Entering his sophomore season, John Tavares is not yet ready to carry the load offensively. If Rick DiPietro can stay relatively healthy, the team will have decent goaltending.

Ron's ranking: 15th
Andy's ranking: 15th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Josh Bailey, John Tavares

Western Conference:

Chicago Blackhawks---1st place: Despite losing eight players in the off-season due to salary cap issues, the Blackhawks retained its star power. Led by Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane, a repeat of last season's success is not unfathomable considering many of Chicago's key players have not reached their potential yet. Marty Turco is not an upgrade in goal, but he is arguably not a downgrade either.

Ron's ranking: 1st
Andy's ranking: 1st
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Viktor Stalberg, G - Marty Turco

Vancouver Canucks---2nd place: Could this be Vancouver's year? With a lethal top-six (ranked second in the NHL in goals for category last season), an improved defense (acquired Keith Ballard and Dan Hamhuis in the off-season) and Roberto Luongo in net, the Canucks are easily Canada's best team. The question is whether or not they can bring it all together for a playoff run.

Ron's ranking: 2nd
Andy's ranking: 3rd
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Mason Raymond

Los Angeles Kings---3rd place: With Anze Kopitar up front, Drew Doughty on the blue-line and the dual Jonathans (Quick and Bernier) in net, the Kings have reason for optimism in every position. This team has nowhere to go but up.

Ron's ranking: 4th
Andy's ranking: 2nd
Sleeper/Breakout player: G - Jonathan Bernier, Wayne Simmonds

San Jose Sharks---4th place: The big story this summer was the departure of goaltender Evgeni Nabokov, who once again struggled in the post-season. With free agent Antti Niemi taking the reins between the pipes, the Sharks are hoping his

Stanley Cup ring will change the club's fortunes in the playoffs. The rest of the roster is status quo, and some of the up-and-coming players look poised for a breakout season.

Ron's ranking: 3rd
Andy's ranking: 4th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Devin Setoguchi, Joe Pavelski

Phoenix Coyotes---5th place: Loaded with young talent and one of the league's best goaltenders, the Coyotes are on the rise and looking to build on last season's surprising fourth-place finish in the Western Conference. It is unlikely they'll finish the season with home-ice advantage in the playoffs, considering the element of surprise is gone, but don't expect them to decline much.

Ron's ranking: 6th
Andy's ranking: 5th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Wojtek Wolski, Martin Hanzal

St. Louis Blues---6th place: The Blues are ready for the next level with the acquisition of Jaroslav Halak this summer. The team is loaded with young talent on both the blue-line and forward ranks. You can expect this team to take a major step forward this season, and for many of the players to increase their fantasy value.

Ron's ranking: 5th
Andy's ranking: 7th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Patrik Berglund, David Perron
Detroit Red Wings---7th place: The NHL's oldest team is on the verge of losing its stars to retirement. Detroit could soon break its streak of making the playoffs for 19 consecutive seasons. The development of the youth in Detroit this season will directly influence their place in the standings.

Ron's ranking: 7th
Andy's ranking: 6th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Valtteri Filppula, D - Niklas Kronwall

Colorado Avalanche---8th place: The Avalanche will continue to develop its young talent this season. The club cannot afford a sophomore slump from Matt Duchene, who was one of the key players in Colorado's turnaround last season. The team having to start the season without the services of Peter Mueller will be a major setback if it last long. It is debatable whether some of the high-scoring youth of last season can be relied on to produce similar results this season.

Ron's ranking: 8th
Andy's ranking: 9th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Ryan O'Reilly, Matt Duchene

Anaheim Ducks---9th place: The Ducks struggled to keep the puck out of their net last season, ranking 22nd in the league for goals against. The team did little to improve its defense, so unless the trio of Bobby Ryan, Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry dominate the score-sheet, another year near the Western Conference basement seems likely. The team will have to hope the team can find

a way to mesh without their long-time leader Scott Niedermayer, who retired this summer.

Ron's ranking: 9th
Andy's ranking: 8th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Ryan Getzlaf, Bobby Ryan

Calgary Flames---10th place: Unless Alex Tanguay and Olli Jokinen can find consistency in Calgary, it's likely the Flames will have to endure another year outside the playoff picture. And Jarome Iginla isn't getting any younger. The defense core will be expected to play a lot better than they did last year, considering they have such a collection of talent and experience. The goaltending will be solid as always under the infallible Kipper.

Ron's ranking: 11th
Andy's ranking: 10th
Sleeper/Breakout player: D - Jay Bouwmeester, F - Rene Bourque

Edmonton Oilers---11th place: Edmonton is stacked with young talent, but will need to get their feet wet before making the jump to the post-season. Slow but steady steps are being taken to reach that goal. A healthy Ales Hemesky doesn't hurt the team's chances. A big year from at least one of their high-profile rookies would do the team wonders.

Ron's ranking: 10th
Andy's ranking: 13th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Sam Gagner, Taylor Hall, D - Ryan Whitney

Minnesota Wild---12th place: The Wild require some firepower up front to be considered realistic contenders. Matt Cullen was the only off-season acquisition, and he is better suited in third-line role at his age. The team will need improvements internally, which don't seem forthcoming. Their goaltending will be solid again this year, but that will not save them.

Ron's ranking: 13th
Andy's ranking: 11th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Guillaume Latendresse, D - Cam Barker

Dallas Stars---13th place: The Stars will likely regress this season with the departures of Mike Modano, Jere Lehtinen and Marty Turco. A top-five draft selection could be on its way next summer. Some of the young forwards have been developing at an astonishing rate, but it's unlikely they will be able to outscore the team's shortcomings. The goaltending should be solid under the newly acquired Kari Lehtonen.

Ron's ranking: 14th
Andy's ranking: 12th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Jamie Benn, James Neal

Nashville Predators---14th place: The Predators will struggle to fill the void left from defenseman Dan Hamhuis and captain Jason Arnott.

Another playoff berth is unlikely. The team always finds a way to be close to the big dance, or in it, but it seems unlikely this year.

Ron's ranking: 12th
Andy's ranking: 15th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Matthew Lombardi, D - Cody Franson

Columbus Blue Jackets---15th place: The team failed to make the big dance last season, and also failed to acquire the legitimate first-line center that Rick Nash has been yearning for. The Blue Jackets continue to spin their wheels instead of taking the next step. If Steve Mason can have a comeback year, they may be near the playoff picture, however. This is a big IF, as a goaltender's confidence can be hard to mend after it breaks.

Ron's ranking: 15th
Andy's ranking: 14th
Sleeper/Breakout player: F - Derrick Brassard, Nikita Filatov

Lady Vees continue winning ways

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Laurentian's women's soccer team continues to have an amazing season.

The team currently sits at five wins, two losses, and three ties for a total of 18 points.

18 points is good enough to place the team at third in the league, which would give them a home-field advantage going in to the playoffs, if they started now.

The Lady Vees marched to a 2-0 victory over Trent this Sunday.

Coach Rob Gallo was pleased with the outcome of the game.

"We did what we had to get done, and that was winning this game," Gallo says. "We'll pick the three points up and forget about today."

Third-year player Renee Jacques felt the win was crucial for the Lady Vees.

"We needed a win, because we needed to keep up in the standings," she says.

Gallo gave his keeper and defense a lot of credit for the win.

"The keeper's being playing well, but you've also got to give a lot of credit to the defense."

He was especially adamant about the way some of his younger defenders are playing lately.

"The important thing is to see some of our young defenders playing extremely well, they're battling extremely hard."

Jacques felt the team's offense was crucial in their victory.

"It was really good that we could score today," she says.

"Our finishing has been the team's main difficulty lately."

Jacques was clear about what the team needed to accomplish during their next five games, which will all be on the road.

"It's going to be pretty hectic for us," Jacques says. "We need to at least get ties, but wins would be very important for us."

He stressed the importance of the team's upcoming games.

"We've got three huge games coming up," Gallo says.

"We play Nipissing at their barn, and that's a really difficult game every time."

The team will also do battle with the University of Toronto and Ryerson University this week, according to Gallo.

"This could dictate where we're going to be as far as whether we can place second or third in our division," he says.

Gallo says the team will have to bring its "A" game the next couple of games in order to guarantee they get to play some home field advantage playoff games.

"We're not going to be satisfied just making it in, our goal is to get a home playoff game and that's what we have to strive for," he says.

Jacques knows what the team needs to



Laurentian's Leanne Adams is tackled in the box by Trent's captain, Brittany MacIntosh. Adams capitalized on the resulting penalty kick. Photos by Andy Veilleux.

do to accomplish their mission.

"We've just got to keep winning,"

Jacques says.

The team played their game against Nipissing on Tuesday night and won 1-0 in a

tight defensive match.

The Lady Vees will travel to Toronto this weekend to face off against the University of Toronto on Saturday, Oct. 8, and Ryerson on Oct. 9.

Voyageurs struggling to hold playoff spot

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Laurentian's men's soccer team is going through a bit of a hiccup on their way to the playoffs.

The team currently holds onto the sixth, and final, playoff spot with three wins, four losses, two ties. They have a total of 11 points.

This Sunday the team tied the Trent Excalibur 1-1, in what was a very even, and physical match-up.

The physical nature of the game was highlighted by an event which sent one Trent player to the Sudbury Regional Hospital.

Trent's Cromwell Damile collided in the air with Laurentian's Roger Teves, sending Damile to the ground. Damile held his lip as he got to his feet, and blood was visible on his fingers.

He made his way off the field to consult with the trainer, and the referee allowed a substitute on in his place.

Damile would leave the field and head to the hospital to get his lip stitched.

Carlo Castrechino, head coach of the Voyageurs, was unimpressed with the tie, although he acknowledged it was better than a loss.

He wasn't impressed with his squad.

"I don't think we played very well at all today," Castrechino says.

"Our passing was way off, we were kicking long balls all over the place and we aren't a long ball team."

Castrechino saw the positive side of the game, but was cautious when praising the positive elements of their play.

"We battled back and got the goal at least, but we made a lot of bad decisions today," Castrechino says.

He believes the team needs to improve their decision-making next

game.

The team was also missing two of their starters, including captain James Bond, because of suspension, Castrechino says.

Castrechino believes the team is still well within playoff position, and he was quick to praise the play of Cameron Brooks, a first-year defender with the team.

"He's been the rookie of the year, and the MVP for us," Castrechino says.

"He's only 17, and he's played like he's a fifth-year veteran."

Brooks was modest about the coach's praise, and believes the whole team needs to work harder.

"Trent's not really the strongest of teams in the division, we've just got to play better," he says.

Brooks felt the tying goal was crucial, because Trent had just scored the goal to put themselves up 1-0.

"It was pretty important, because we had just gotten scored on, and it put them on their heels," Brooks says.

Brooks wasn't modest when it came to the Voyageur's playoff chances.

"I guarantee we'll make the playoffs," he says.

"I'm happy with the boys, we're working hard, and I feel that we'll make the playoffs."

Brooks doesn't mind the team being considered an underdog if they draw one of the top teams in the division.

"As I said, I have a lot of confidence in the boys, a lot of faith in them, and I'm sure we'll be able to play well," he says.

The team played against Nipissing on Tuesday night and lost 2-0, which puts them on the cusp of losing their playoff spot.

The Voyageurs will travel to Toronto this weekend to face off against the University of Toronto on Saturday, Oct. 8, and Ryerson on Oct. 9.



Laurentian's Davor Alisic kicks a corner kick during action against Trent on Sunday, Oct. 3.

Sports wrap-up

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

The Laurentian women's cross-country running team won the Waterloo Open this weekend.

Gracie Tetzlaff, who is a third-year runner with the team, led the team.

Tetzlaff got ahead early, and never looked back.

She placed 2nd among university scorers and 6th overall, running a time of 15:25. Emma Tallman and Lindsay Anderson finished right behind Tetzlaff in the 3rd and 4th positions among university entrants with times of 15:34 and 15:46.

Stephanie Flieler and Katie Maziariski placed in the 7th and 12th university positions, with times of 15:53 and 16:22 respectively.

Laurentian's team score was 28 points, while Waterloo finished second with 32 points and Laurier was third with 73 points.

Trent, RMC and Brock finished in the 4th through sixth positions.

Seventy-four runners competed, including athletes from York, University of Toronto and

three track clubs.

"It was a fun event and a nice result for us," Dick Moss, cross-country coach, says. "Our athletes ran close together and were able to provide each other with support."

Laurentian's next competition is the Yellowjacket Invitational in Rochester on October 17th.

Male athlete of the week:

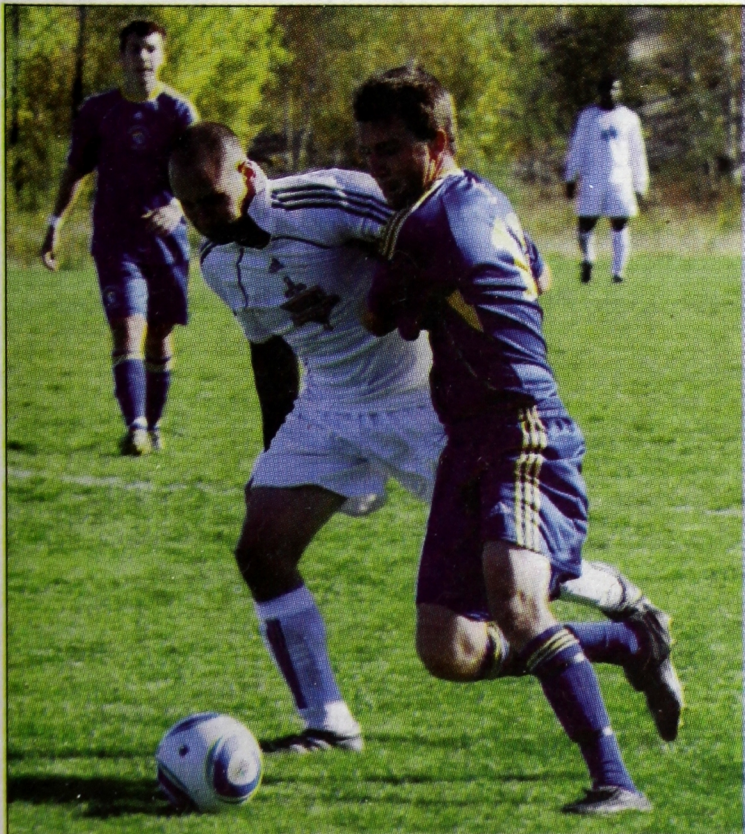
Voyageurs soccer player Cameron Brooks, a first-year Sports Administration student, has been named male athlete of the week.

Brooks scored the lone goal in 1-1 tie with Trent Excalibur this weekend.

Female athlete of the week:

Lady Vees cross country runner Gracie Tetzlaff, a third-year Sports Administration student, has been named this week's female athlete of the week.

Tetzlaff, placed second in the Waterloo Open this past weekend, which helped lead the Lady Vees to victory. Tetzlaff finished second among University runners and sixth overall in a time of 15:24 for the four-kilometre race.



Laurentian's Trevor Beange battles Trent's Dustin Graham for possession of the ball.

New business targets singles

BY ED VAILLEUX

After spending roughly five years single, trying the online dating scene and meeting potential suitors in bars, Muriel Maguire had enough.

At the mention of Plenty of Fish, a free online dating site, Maguire rolls her eyes (she has been on the site for three years and has made no progress with potential suitors).

Apparently, she isn't alone. Single Status, Maguire's company, has been in business for three months and it currently has around 200 people registered.

"Sudbury needed it," she said. Maguire, a 36-year-old mother, decided it was time to do something about being single, for herself and for others.

She said she often hears people saying Sudbury has little to offer to the single crowd, in terms of activities, but she disagrees.

"Sudbury has lots to offer. People just need to get out."

She said her organization is a way to bridge that gap, to get people out doing things they'll enjoy that they didn't know existed.

One thing about dating that can make it awkward is the tension involved, according to Maguire, but Single Status "doesn't have the tension of a date."

Oftentimes, Maguire is contacted by people who are leery to try her service, but by the end of an event, those skeptics usually have ravingly-positive reviews, according to the local business owner.

One single who uses the service, and wished to remain anonymous, wrote through email, "I think this service should have been created a long time ago. It motivates a person to go out and meet other people with similar interests, keeps you active and challenges your skills. And, with others, you never have to plan what to do, just pick what you like."

Another anonymous single offered, through email, "I moved to Sudbury three years ago and I don't have many friends and don't really like the bar scene. When I found out about this group, I knew I had to check it out. I really like it, we have fun together. I strongly suggest, to every single out there, to come and try some activities. You will not regret it."

Currently, the group has participants between the ages of 24 and 71 but is making a push to include more younger singles. Maguire has consciously includes events such as kickboxing classes and paintballing to encourage the addition of the student crowd.

"We want the 20s and 30s (age group) to realize it's for them too," she said. "I think that age group doesn't think they need it as much as the older age groups."

For those who are worried about cost, the group has free events, such as hiking and local casino nights.

Although Maguire, who is still single, was hoping the group concept would help her find a partner, she

Among the activities organized by Maguire for the group, people can expect to go bowling, zip-lining, to try zumba classes, kickboxing, cooking for one courses and salsa dancing.

"You name it, we have it," Maguire said.

For Halloween, the organization will be participating in the annual Halloween Haunt event at Wonderland on Oct. 23.

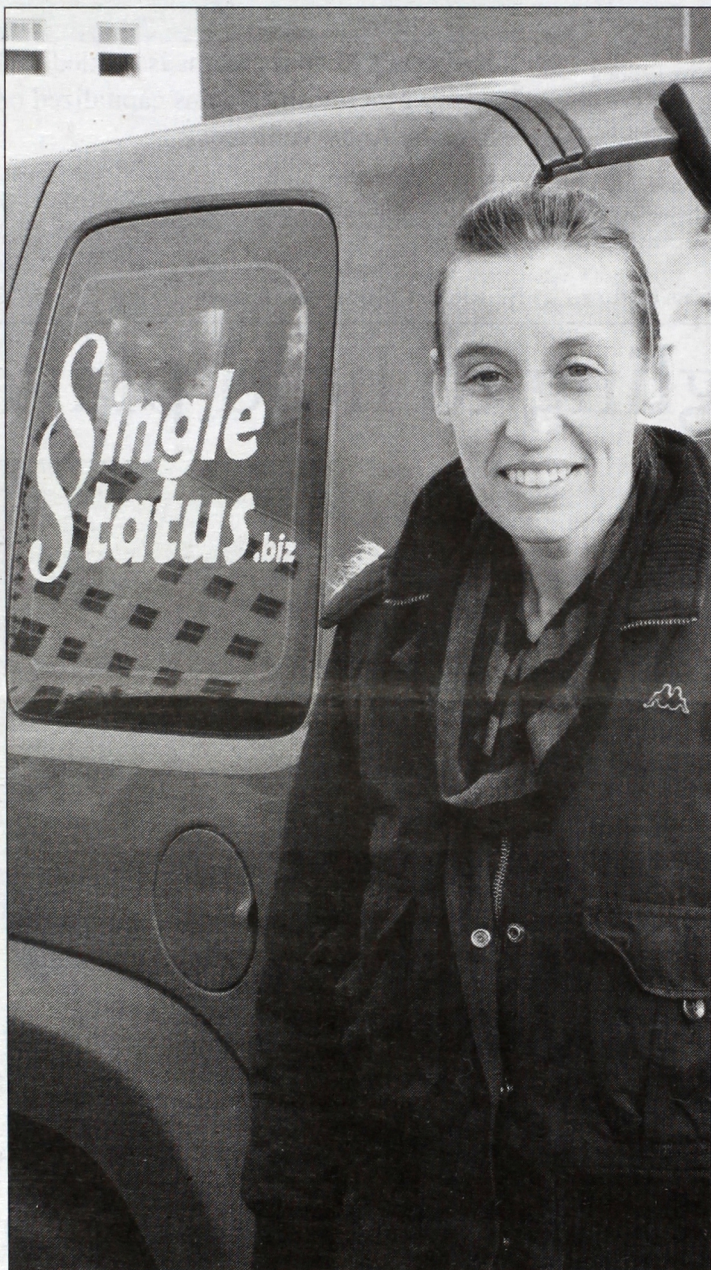


Photo by Ed Veilleux

Muriel Maguire, 35, is the founder of the local business, Single Status.

said she is usually "too busy making sure everyone else is having fun." She laughs about it.

Maguire stresses that even if you don't find love or romance at the events, you'll walk away with new friends.

There is no fee to sign up for the group, but there are fees for most events.

Contact Maguire for more information at 593.2344, or find Single Status on Facebook.

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Laurentian spending money on Lobbyists

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Laurentian University, along with several other universities, have been discovered spending money on hiring lobbyists to influence the provincial government, according to media reports.

"Documents secured by the Ontario NDP through a Freedom of Information request show that nine Ontario colleges and universities have spent nearly a million dollars to hire private lobbyists and consultants to influence the McGuinty government," a press release from the Canadian Federation of Students says.

The release goes on to say that the "post-secondary education institutions in Ontario are already the worst funded in Canada," and this "raises concerns among students about the use of institutional resources."

Statistics Canada reports per-student funding to be 24 percent lower in Ontario in comparison to the rest of Canada, according to the report. Students in Ontario pay the highest fees in Canada while studying in classes that are 37 per cent more populated than the national average.

Sandy Hudson, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, blasted the universities undertaking this practice.

"It is a waste of taxpayers' dollars to have public institutions using government grants to lobby for more government grants," Hudson says.

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations also expressed concern that this practice may be diverting funds away from education.

"Ontario faculty and academic librarians are concerned that the use of paid lobbyists by the province's universities may be diverting needed resources from quality education," a press release from the OCUFA says.

Mark Langer, president of OCUFA, found the amount of money being spent on lobbyists

shocking.

"With the university system chronically short of funding, I find it surprising that six of Ontario's universities are spending nearly a million dollars on lobbyists," Langer says.

He suggested the universities should be looking at other ways to spend this money.

"Ontario's economic success and social vitality depend on a high quality university system, which in turn requires the right number of faculty, up-to-date facilities and affordable fees," Langer says.

"With that in mind, perhaps our institutions should examine their financial priorities, particularly when spending the public's money."

Laurentian University had a contract worth \$102,000, according to a Canadian Press report. York University led the way with three contracts totaling close to \$500,000.

John Milloy, colleges and universities minister, says the schools have no reason to be spending money on lobbyists, and the current provincial government will be cracking down on the practice.

"There's no need to be spending public money on lobbyists and my ministry will be working to make sure that message is sent loud and clear," Milloy says.

"They shouldn't be spending public money to talk to me. My phone number is available to all of the presidents and their senior officials."

Provincial NDP leader Andrea Howarth brought the information forward. Howarth says there is something "very, very wrong here."

Marg Beckel, Waterloo's vice-president of external affairs says small universities are at a disadvantage and hiring lobbyists makes sense.

"In many cases hiring a firm to help you do that research and even help you set up the meetings and prepare for meetings is less expensive than hiring full-time staff, if you are a small organization," Beckel says.

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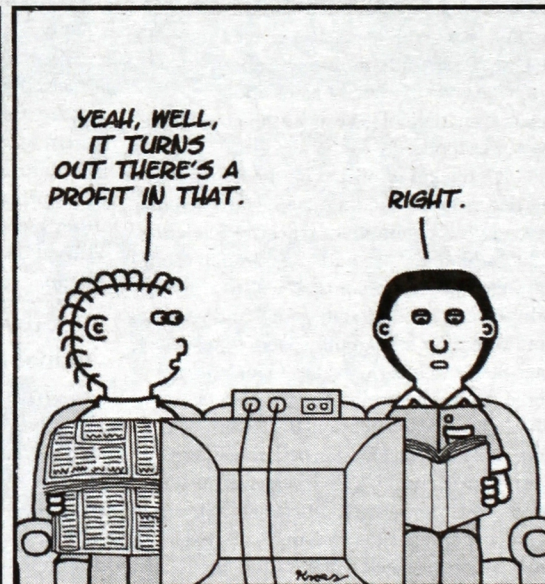
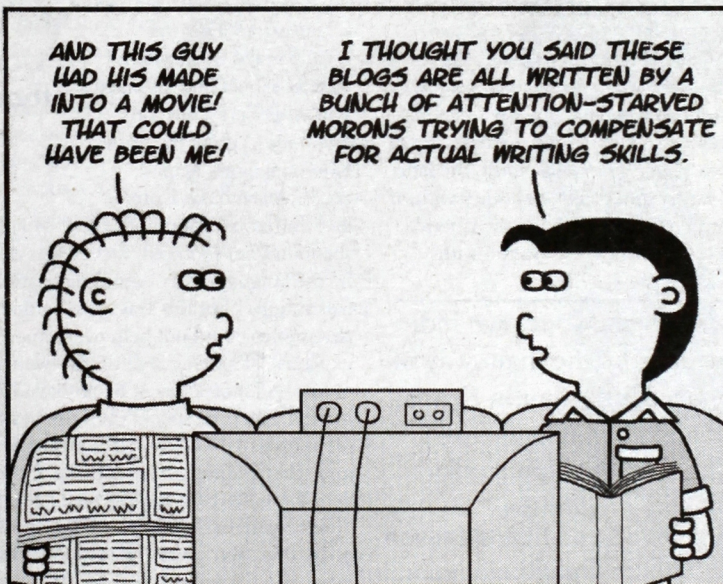
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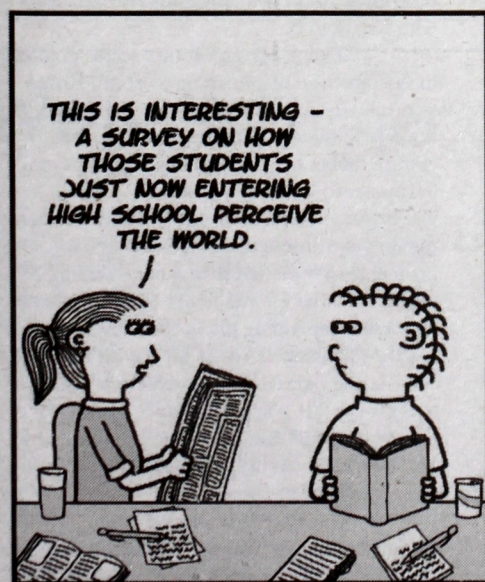
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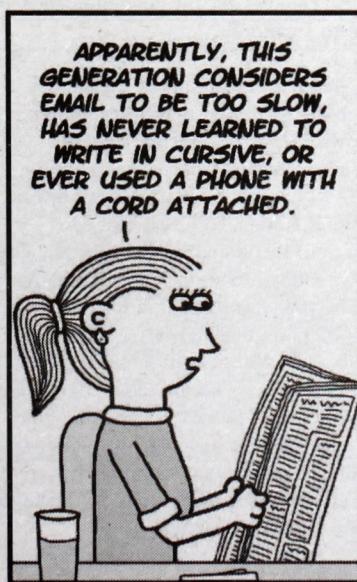
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LU student teaches in South Korea

BY AMANDA PICHE

Elaine Steven, a 21-year-old student of Laurentian University's English program, used her most recent summer holidays to act upon her desire to gain experience teaching English in a foreign country. Traveling to Seoul in late April, South Korea's largest city, Steven taught conversational English in the fast-paced Gangnam district for Christian Mennonite school Connexus. In the four months that followed, Steven says she was witness to her own professional and personal growth amidst the backdrop of a satisfying cultural experience.

Steven's involvement with Connexus came as a result of wanting a break after a difficult school term. Having learned of the school through her mother, Steven took the initiative to get in contact with Connexus. Steven was fond not only of Connexus' educational offerings (the school teaches English as a second language at various levels), but of its location as well; having visited South Korea for ten days in January 2009 to see siblings who teach English there, Steven found herself attracted to the culture and inspired to return one day to teach. The opportunity to do so had now presented itself, and Steven took it.

Steven assumed a volunteer position as a conversational English instructor, teaching beginner, elementary, intermediate, and discussion levels. This temporary position had Steven replacing two teachers who were going on vacation leave. Lack of payment did not deter Steven from taking on the position. "What mattered to me more was being able to teach people and, in return, make great friends and take in this amazing culture," says Steven. Connexus would provide Steven support by way of accommodation and monthly allowance. "Connexus let me stay in an apartment with the other female teachers, and that was great. I was also given a stipend at the end of each month that was about 300,000 won, which pretty much means about 280 dollars Canadian. This was just to cover basic needs, like food..."

Connexus is located on the fourth floor of a decent sized building - an occurrence that Steven says is common for teaching academies in South Korea. "We had several small rooms that we used as classrooms, as well as two bathrooms, a kitchen/staff room, and an office room where we all had our spaces to work," notes Steven. Upon arrival to Connexus, Steven promptly received orientation by the school's head teacher, Soon-Jae Kwon, who went over basic teaching methods with her. From there, Steven was to independently craft lessons based on provided materials. Steven also incorporated those resources offered to her by experienced teachers into her syllabi. Lectures were punctuated by teachers evaluating her instruction, a concept that, while initially terrifying, was one that Steven gradually grew accustomed to.

Classes were populated by a maximum of six students who varied in age and professional experience. Of the students Steven came into contact with, Steven enthuses that they "... were great. Most of them were much older than me, but I felt like they were all children. And I don't mean that insultingly! Most of my students really paid attention, and loved coming to class. We could spend an entire class talking about our favourite foods. It was really great fun. Other times, I'd have students who just didn't care, or were very spaced out, and playing with their iPhones, etc. But I'd still try to have everyone participate. I got along really well with all of my students, and many of them still keep in contact with me over e-mail and Facebook. It's really wonderful."

Steven's pedagogy was influenced by



Photo supplied

In this photo, Elaine Steven is in the middle. She writes: "And lastly, two of my students and myself. On the left is Raygun (he chose that name for himself) and on the right is Minwoo."

differences between Korean and Canadian rules of conversation. Says Steven, "I would tell my students that there are some very important rules to learning English, and I would make these a basis for each class: 1. Speak clearly, and at an appropriate pace. 2. Use each other's names, and 3. Use eye contact!" Emphasis on these rules was essential in order to have Korean students speak English just as a native speaker would. As Steven goes on to elaborate, "These rules may be simple for us, but in Korea, that's an entirely different thing. Eye contact is sometimes not used, people are really used to multitasking... [A]ddressing someone by their first name is often times considered very rude (especially if you don't know them well), so people might just say 'ma'am' or 'sir'. We'll say that, sure, but once we learn a name, we tend to use it to address someone. I wasn't teaching them to speak English in Korea. I was teaching them to speak conversational English, the kind that people use to speak to one another with. If they meet someone from Canada or America, they'd be able to have a conversation with them."

"In the west, being your own individual seems to be the main way of finding your identity, but in Korea, what matters is family, togetherness, community. This is true for almost everything they do."

-Elaine Steven

Steven also found herself altering her speech and vocabulary when instructing her students, something that Steven identifies as her greatest difficulty. "I have this bad habit of speaking at lightning speeds and using higher diction," says Steven. "If I say 'experimentation' to a low level English student in Korea, he/she will stare at me thinking, 'What... was that word?'. So I'd have to say 'try' or 'test', which are very difficult for me because they have such larger meanings. But I learned to bypass it."

Despite whatever frustrations Steven might have felt throughout her teaching experience, the learning she witnessed - whether it be her students' or her own - filled her with the greatest sense of accomplishment. "I felt so proud of them, and myself, because I was able to help them learn something that just comes naturally to me. This has always been a goal in my life - [to] teach people about something I love to do. When they'd hear me

speak Korean, they'd cheer for me, because I was also learning. The [simplest] successes were [the] ones I cherished most. I'm still so happy to know that I contributed to helping people learn. It also reinforced my view on how important University is for me. Talk about the pep talk of a life time!"

When not in the classroom, Steven was able to explore more of the culture she had only briefly sampled a year prior. This was greatly aided by newfound acquaintances and Connexus staff members Jinju, Bo Hyun and Yunju; the three Korean women helped Steven learn basic Korean and toured her around the city. However, until she found her foothold, Steven was distressed by the language barrier and navigational frustrations - but this was nothing that time and persistence could not help overcome. Steven explains, "The language barrier was difficult at first. A lot of areas in Seoul have English, but not everyone speaks even the basic level, so often times I'd find myself pointing at things and flailing about... Other times, I knew very, very basic Korean, such as being able to say 'Thank you' or 'Where am I?' or 'I want to order this'. But overall, Korean is very easy to learn and the only times I felt frustrated with myself were when I'd get lost on the subway route and couldn't get any good directions. Not a problem anymore!"

Steven speaks fondly of the culture in which she spent four months acquainting herself with - particularly the sense of community that permeates throughout the culture. "I have to say that my most favorite thing about Korean culture is that what matters most is community. In the west, being your own individual seems to be the main way of finding your identity, but in Korea, what matters is family, togetherness, community. This is true for almost everything they do; music, food, culture, family, schooling... there was no such thing as having something that was 'yours' when it was possible to be shared with others. It was quite beautiful, after coming from Canada where at most times, it feels like everyone wants to be alone."

After reflecting on the experience, Steven feels a rightly deserved sense of achievement for not only acting on a goal, but



Photo supplied

In this photo, Elaine Steven is the girl wearing the white hat and waving (right). She writes: "This lovely picture was also framed and given to me as a going away present, and I cherish it deeply. These were the other teachers, all posing for our new Connexus banner. I was included, even though I was leaving, and that made me very happy."

for learning a new language and overcoming fears. As a result of exposure to Korean and her dedication to learning it, Steven can now moderately speak and read the language. Furthermore, Steven now finds herself more confident in her abilities, having overcome the fear of walking alone at night and shyness. Such personal growth is evident, especially given the fact that her students took their teacher to be interpersonal by nature. "None of my students could believe me when I told them that speaking at the front of the class was one of my greatest fears," says Steven. Ultimately, the experience has solidified Steven's understanding of herself and of her future plans. "I think I've really grown as an individual, and I've really found myself, and who I want to be."

Elaine Steven's future seems pointed in the direction of returning to South Korea to teach. Stating that the country feels like home, she observes how comfortable the culture makes her feel and how she hopes to permanently settle there someday. While it will be sometime before she can actualize her dreams, she is nonetheless thrilled to have been able to have had such a life changing experience that has made her more passionate about her impending plans. For now, Steven has the following words of advice for those considering partaking in an experience similar to Steven's: "If you get a chance to go, take it. Don't wait until later, just do it now, now, now! You'll be glad you did, and your perspective will change for the better!"

For more information about Connexus, visit the following web address: http://connexus.host.whoisweb.net/english/sub_intro.htm

Letter: SGA president's views on strike

The strike looks like it has, at long last, come to a close. As I write this, there is a tentative agreement that is waiting on a ratification vote from the union and approval from the NOSM board. There will be no more picketing and the rising student backlash will quiet. I don't think that it will go away entirely for awhile, though. After all, there is one interested party that has a grievance that will probably never be formally addressed. I'm speaking, of course, about Laurentian students.

From the beginning, the SGA staked out a position of neutrality. In our opinion, student resources were put to better use advocating for and representing SGA students rather than taking sides in a labour dispute. A few members of the Laurentian community have informed me that student-worker solidarity is the stance I should have taken. However, had I done so, I would not have appropriately represented the concerns of the majority of my

students.

I don't think I need to tell you that based on the e-mails, phone calls, and office visits I received during the strike, students were well and truly angry with being made late for classes, work, and other activities on campus. They had had it with being asked to call this administrator or that one whenever they travelled through the picket – as though they should take responsibility for ending a conflict in which they were certainly not being treated as real stakeholders.

This is not to say that any student I encountered begrudged OPSEU what they deserved – the collective agreement that they had been asking for. What was at issue here, for us, was the tactics that were being employed. NOSM delayed returning to the negotiating table time and time again, prolonging the strike. They let public anger build toward the striking employees while they sat back and stayed virtually invisible. OPSEU

was no better; they threw our students under the bus each morning when they delayed us expressly to make us angry enough to call someone at the University and let them know about it. It was abundantly clear throughout the strike that neither side was looking out for students.

We may not have had a place at the table, but we were inextricably caught up in the situation all the same – and we were not treated with a lot of respect. Laurentian students are intelligent, hard-working, resourceful, and active members of our community. Surely we deserve better. If this all sounds like whining to you, then I leave you with this: We were forced into the middle of a labour dispute in which both sides used us and focussed solely on their own interests and concerns without considering ours.

Expect us to object.

-SAMANTHA PITZEL, SGA PRESIDENT

Letter: What to make of RBC's donation?

At the beginning of this month, the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) announced \$400,000 in funding for the planned Laurentian University Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre.

In a joint press release between Laurentian University and RBC, the Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre is described as "a 'home away from home' for Aboriginal students, staff and faculty that will bring together research, academic programming and native student support services and celebrate the unique cultures, traditions and knowledge of native peoples."

However RBC's track record has not been so friendly to Native peoples living downstream of the Athabasca Tar Sands, a massive industrial project in which RBC is a major financier.

A 2009 report released by the Rainforest Action Network called "Financing Global Warming: Canadian Banks and Fossil Fuels" criticizes the impact that the Tar Sands has on First Nations communities.

Fort Chipewyan is located about 200 kms south of the Athabasca Tar Sands. You might recognize it from the recent and widely acclaimed documentary H2Oil. The RAN report paints a bleak picture of health concerns

in the community; elevated rates of bile duct cancer, thyroid dysfunction and immune system dysfunction have been detected.

In 2008, Chiefs representing 6,7 and 8 "passed a unanimous resolution... to support calls for no new oil sands approvals until First Nations approve comprehensive watershed management and resource development plans for the region", according to the report.

Chief Alan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is quoted in the report as saying, "The cumulative impacts of oil sands development has all but destroyed the traditional livelihood of First Nations in northern Athabasca watershed."

RBC CEO Gordon Nixon has been approached by RAN over concerns arising from the Tar Sands and its impacts on First Nations communities. Nixon has demonstrated willingness to dialogue, but according to a letter he wrote to RAN dated Dec 2009, the company is not willing to consider diverting its funding away from the Alberta Tar Sands.

-SHANNON WILLS

Writer's Corner column starting

Welcome (or welcome back) to "The Writers' Corner," a regular column that tries to provide you with some help for the writing you're doing at Laurentian. With that in mind, I'm going to use this first column to give you information about the Writing Assistance Program and what we're up to this year.

Located in the Student Success area of the Desmarais Library, the Writing Assistance Program exists to serve you, Laurentian's students. We're open from Monday to Thursday and encourage you to make an appointment if you have concerns about your writing. We also offer regular writing workshops, and you can

get the details on these at our website, Success@laurentian.ca.

To make your appointment, call 675-1151, ext. 3426, email lculliford@laurentian.ca, or drop by my office at 30-249 in the Library. Remember: as the term goes on the Program becomes busier and busier, so make that appointment soon!

-LEDA CULLIFORD, WRITING COUNSELLOR, WRITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Letter: Accessibility Services name change

Words are very powerful. As Don Miguel Ruiz put it; "the word is the most powerful tool you have." It is no wonder then, why so many Universities and Colleges around Ontario are embracing the term Accessibility when addressing the needs of disabled persons.

As of September 1st, the Special Needs Department here at Laurentian will be renamed as Accessibility Services – a change that has been much anticipated by staff and students for quite some time now. Earl Black, coordinator of the department says that the name change is long overdue, more so now with the new AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act).

Earl knows well how powerful name changes are. In 1989, Special Needs was chosen as the name for the department. Up until then, there were only 8 students registered with the department. Last year, the Special Needs department had more than 450 students registered. Hopefully, with the new name "Accessibility Services", this number will increase. It is important for students to get the help they need, but more importantly, to know that help is available to them.

The reasoning behind the name change has to do with how we interpret the terms "special", "needs" and "disability". The term special is frowned upon as being derogatory in our modern times, while the term need implies an inability to live without. Disability is a misunderstood term and is associated with the most obvious forms, such as a physical handicap. In reality, you do not have to have a typical disability to be disabled. A student suffering from a severe form of anxiety, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, will be disabled from learning, even if they do not have a learning disability.

Any student can seek help from the Accessibility Services department. In fact, students are encouraged to seek

help. Anyone experiencing any difficulties, whether it is academic or personal, the accessibility services department is available to help and accommodate any need. There are many students who are unaware that they could be living with a learning disability or a mental impairment such as an anxiety disorder or ADD/ADHD.

University life can be very demanding. In a fast-paced learning environment where having an active social life is important; the challenges of academia can begin to feel overwhelming. If a student is having problems with time management, completing assignments, comprehending the course material, or is not feeling well within their own personal life (anxiety, depression, etc.) they should seek help. Unfortunately, many students are afraid to get help or identify as having "special needs", so they simply go without accommodations and struggle. Sadly, some of these students will drop out.

Changing from "Special Needs" to "Accessibility Services" is going to challenge the fear students have with identifying themselves. As well, it will create a greater umbrella for the services to fall under. As well, the term "Accessibility Services" does not imply stigma associated with "special needs". Earl is hopeful that the name change will help students feel more at ease with identifying themselves and getting the help they need.

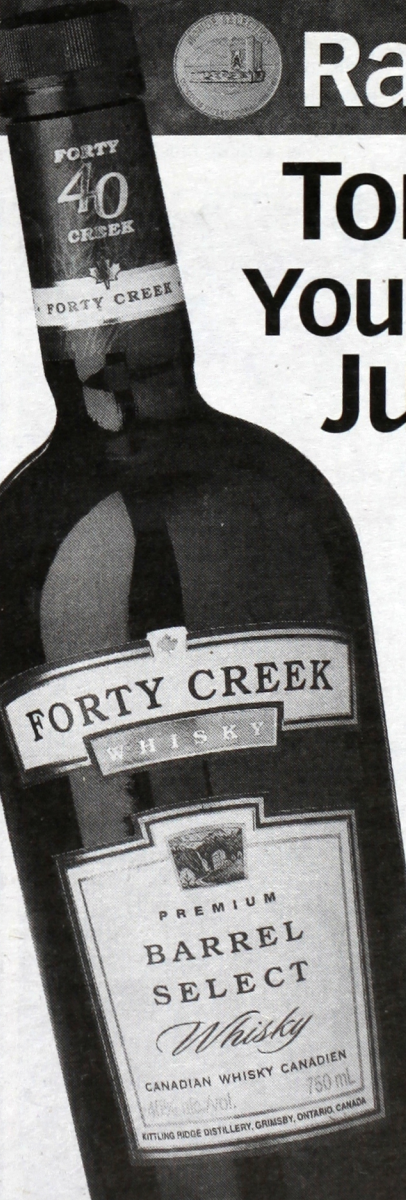
The transition from "special needs" to "Accessibility Services" is believed to go over very well. For this year, the department would like to focus on awareness so not only do students familiarize themselves with the new name, but also so other students who are unaware the department exists can seek accommodations if they feel they need to.

-CASEY LALONDE, SGA VICE-PRESIDENT, ISSUES

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Hiking through Laurentian's conservation area

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

My father and I always agreed on one thing; if you're going into the bush, you wear your jeans. Arguing with a French-Canadian, former lumberjack, who hails from Hearst, Ontario when it comes to matters of the bush is not recommended.

I threw on my blue jeans, cotton Daniel Alfredsson Ottawa Senators t-shirt, and an athletic zip-up track jacket. The sky was flirting with rain, so I grabbed my raincoat. Well, it wasn't really a raincoat, but it tried its best.

I grabbed my camera, notepad, pens, recorder, lip chap, along with the other necessities of the trip. I packed it all in my backpack with Hunter S. Thomson's *Fear and Loathing*; on the Election Trail '72, in case I got the chance to do a little light reading.

There was no purpose to our trip in particular, aside from the fact we both wanted to go out hiking, and I had never hiked behind Laurentian.

A text message greeted me as I pulled into the Ben Avery parking lot, telling me she was running a little late.

I began jotting down notes in my dog-eared, water-smeared notebook. I watched her pull in, and got out of my green 1998 pick-up truck to greet her.

Amanda Henry, a fourth-year psychology student, got out of her van with a coffee in her hand.

She shrugged when I mentioned I had forgotten water, and commented that the coffee she was drinking probably wasn't the best idea at the beginning of a hike.

She wasn't worried though.

There was a running joke heading into the trip, where I'd tell her I was going to help her with her thesis while we were out hiking. It was the most complete fabrication since the Feds brought in Income Tax as a temporary measure to fund World War I.

There was nothing I could teach her about her field, although I was quite capable of discussing Psychology at a basic level.

As far as I'm concerned, everyone who observes human

behaviour is performing psychology at a journeyman level at least, scientific method be damned.

However, there's a mountain of difference between a psychologist, and one who dabbles in psychology; I belong to the latter category.

She had forgotten her jacket, but luckily her father had left one of his coats in the passenger seat.

She sank into the over-sized jacket, and we headed out on our trip.

She led the way, and I followed a few paces behind her.

We spoke about whether it was necessary for me to bring along a backpack at all.

I mentioned it was easier than carrying my camera around my neck.

"I will have to get a shot of you at some point," I added.

She had her reservations, but was not completely opposed to the idea.

She switched away from the subject by stating her belief about not bringing expensive things with her on a hike, in case they got damaged.

I agreed, but argued the camera was a necessity when one was working on a story.

I told her I could teach her how to use a camera in two hours, tops.

I taught her the basics in less than five minutes later in the trip.

The conversation meandered like the trail we walked. We discussed meta-cognition, Carl Jung, and the differences between writing academically as opposed to writing for the public.

I was an expert in the last category, but she dominated discussion of the first two.

A good conversationalist is never overwhelmed, or stalled, even when in over their head and out of their subject of expertise; however, honesty and a Socratic curiosity were necessary tools of the trade.

We spoke of our separate theses. Her thesis was underway, while mine was caged in my mind, waiting for some time in the future, in a far away land.

We went up hills of sand and



Amanda Henry looks out over the trees at Laurentian University. Photos by Andy Veilleux.

loose gravel, down muddy trails, and through some bushy paths. We walked over small bodies of water, and along the edge of streams.

Outcroppings of black rock, which would have been brown before the roast beds of Sudbury's early mining operations, jumped out through the trees.

She would point, or simply turn and smile, and we would adventure up the rocks, and down the crevices, and wherever our hearts, and her curiosity, desired.

We came across a junkyard, tucked in a valley. It was surrounded by small, rolling mountains.

Heavy, industrial tires littered the landscape. Unused concrete pipes, big enough for a human to crawl through, sat on the ground with grass beginning to grow on the bottom of them.

Skids of wood gave up on life, letting themselves fall apart up against the tires. Piles of bricks were left to decompose, waiting to be placed.

I imagined they would never be used.

We climbed a mountain to get a better look, and were unimpressed

when the canopy of trees blocked our sight.

We decided to continue on our journey.

We bounded down the hill, and up and down more mountains, until we found ourselves climbing a larger rock-face.

We made it to the top and found two tiny inukshuk sculptures. Laurentian's campus stood in the distance, just sneaking over the treetops.

The sun had seen better days, and was beginning to stagger its way towards the hilltops.

We decided we should make our way back to the entrance.

The way back seemed short, and less enjoyable. Novelty is paramount to enjoyment, even when exploring nature.

The University drew closer with every hilltop we climbed.

Eventually we found ourselves on the more clear-cut paths close to school, where the caution tape still blocked off the routes for the runners who recently made their way through the trails.

'Only 600 metres left!' a sign encouraged them. It brought us a

smile.

We were back in the parking lot.

"It looks like you didn't get a picture of me after all," she smiled. "Oh no?" I returned the smile.

We agreed the adventure was not over yet. She suggested heading to Laurentian's beach, and I accepted.

We met up in the parking lot outside the Classroom building, after the relatively short drive.

I left the camera, notepad, recorder, pens, and backpack in my truck.

We made our way down a trail, which led to a road, and eventually brought us to the beach.

We finally encountered other people on our travels, and took some time to pet their dog.

Once we arrived at the beach, we climbed through some rocks in the water, and made our way past it. Sometimes destinations aren't enough, and the adventure must continue onward.

A rock-cliff jetted skyward in front of us. She pointed, and smiled.

She scaled the rock-face, and I followed closely, but not too closely, behind her.

We successfully scaled the rocks and continued on a trail that greeted us at the top.

"There's a bench around here, I sat on it when I came here kayaking," she said.

We found the bench, and sat down to talk.

It was a solid bench, which greeted our tired bodies kindly.

Our minds mirrored our bodies.

We discussed the future as definitively as two students at the end of their undergraduate degrees could.

The sun was escaping from the sky, and it was making a quick get-away.

We hauled ourselves down a dusty gravel road, which led back to our vehicles.

A black figure moved in the distance.

A dog?

No, the shoulders were too forward, and the body too thick.

"Was that a bear?" she asked.

A cub.

"Where is the mother?" I wondered aloud.

Her sense of adventure encouraged us to follow the bear, but common sense won the debate hands down. We soon found ourselves back at our vehicles.

The sun had now abandoned us, and the light of the streetlamps in the parking lot played on our faces as we said goodbye.

